

GOD'S HEART FOR THE NATIONS - MISSIONS

Jonah 1-4



THE WORD "**MISSION**" IS USED IN MANY DIFFERENT **CONTEXTS**:

"*MISSION BEHIND ENEMY LINES*"
"*MISSION TO OUTER SPACE*"
"*MISSION IMPOSSIBLE*"
"*RESCUE MISSION*"
"*DIPLOMATIC MISSION*"
"*FOREIGN MISSIONS*"
"*INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS*"

THE WORD "**MISSION**" comes from a Latin word meaning "**TO SEND.**"
THE BIBLE IS **FILLED WITH EXAMPLES** of God **SENDING HIS PEOPLE** on mission.

- "GOD HAD **ONE SON** and He sent Him to be a missionary."
- **THE BOOK OF ACTS** is a book about missions and missionaries.
- THE BOOK OF **JONAH IS A BOOK ABOUT MISSIONS**. The BOOK shows GOD'S HEART FOR THE NATIONS.

THE BOOK OF JONAH IN A **NUTSHELL**:

- 1). God **TELLS** Jonah to go to Nineveh ([1:1-2](#))
- 2). Jonah **RUNS** from God's call ([1:3-16](#))
- 3). A **FISH** swallows Jonah ([1:17](#))
- 4). Jonah **PRAYS** for God to rescue him from the fish ([2:1-10](#))
- 5). God **AGAIN TELLS** Jonah to go to Nineveh ([3:1-2](#))
- 6). **NINEVEH REPENTS** at Jonah's preaching ([3:3-10](#))
- 7). **JONAH REVEALS THE CONTENTS OF HIS HEART** ([4:1-11](#))

THE GREATEST DISCOVERIES FROM THE LITTLE BOOK OF JONAH ARE:

- (1) **GOD WAS CONCERNED FOR THE NINEVITES**. The Ninevites were a ruthless and godless nation and yet God sent a missionary to them.
- (2) **JONAH'S MISSION TRIP to Nineveh WAS NOT JONAH'S IDEA. IT WAS GOD'S IDEA. MISSIONS IS NOT MAN'S IDEA.**
SOUTHERN BAPTISTS didn't invent missions. Missions was **BORN IN THE HEART OF GOD! MISSIONS IS ONE OF THE MAJOR THEMES OF THE BIBLE.**

OUTLINE

- I. MISSION RESPONSIBILITY **REVEALED** ([1:1-2](#)) ([3:1-2](#))
- II. MISSION RESPONSIBILITY **REFUSED** ([1:3-16](#))
- III. MISSION RESPONSIBILITY **REQUIRED** ([1:17](#)) ([2:1-10](#))
- IV. MISSION RESPONSIBILITY **REWARDED** ([3:3-10](#))

I. MISSION RESPONSIBILITY REVEALED

S GOD TOLD JONAH **THREE THINGS**:

#1. **WHAT TO DO**

(1:2), “**ARISE, GO . . .**”

(3:1-2), “And the word of the LORD came unto Jonah **THE SECOND TIME**, saying, {2} **ARISE, GO . . .**”

S The Hebrew verb for “GO” IS **AN IMPERATIVE**. It is **A COMMAND**. “GO” was **NOT** a **suggestion**, or **recommendation**, it was **GOD’S COMMAND**. God commanded Jonah to “GO.” God did not ask Jonah if he wanted to go, God told him to go.

S **THE SEPTUAGINT IS THE GREEK TRANSLATION** of the O.T. Hebrew Bible. It was translated from the Hebrew into Greek **IN THE THIRD and SECOND centuries B.C.** It is interesting to note **THE GREEK WORD TRANSLATED “GO” IN** the Septuagint in **JONAH 3:2** is the same Greek word translated as “GO” in **Matthew 28:19**:

- **LXX** poreuyhti 1 AOR, 2 PER, SING, IMPERATIVE
- **NT** poreuyentev 1 AOR, PASS, PTC. NOM, PL, MASC. (Passive Deponent is a verb that is passive in form but with an active meaning.)

S **THE POINT - JUST AS GOD HAD COMMANDED JONAH TO “GO,” GOD HAS COMMANDED US TO “GO!”** The command to “GO” IS **GOD INITIATED. MISSIONS IS NOT THE BRAINCHILD** of some denomination. Missions was born in the heart and mind of God. We are **UNDER DIVINE ORDERS FROM THE KING OF KINGS to “GO!”**

(Mark 16:15), “. . . **GO YE** into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”

(Mat 28:18-20), “. . . All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. {19} **GO YE THEREFORE**, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: {20} Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world . . .”

(Acts 1:8), “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and **YE SHALL BE WITNESSES** unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

- **(Luke 19:10)**, “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”
- **(John 20:21)**, “. . . As my Father hath sent me, even **SO SEND I YOU.**”
- **(Mat 4:19)**, “. . . Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

S **JESUS SAID:**

(Mat 28:18-19), “. . . **ALL POWER {AUTHORITY}** is given unto me in heaven and in earth. {19} **GO YE THEREFORE**, and

teach all nations, . . . ”

- S Jesus possesses **ALL AUTHORITY**. With His Word He spoke the universe into being. When it comes to the choice of which voice we will listen to and obey, we need to heed the voice of Jesus. The voice we need to heed is the one to whom all authority has been granted.

#1. **WHAT TO DO** - “GO”

#2. **WHERE TO GO**

(1:2), “Arise, **GO TO NINEVEH**, that great city, . . . ”

(3:2), “Arise, **GO to NINEVEH**, that great city, . . . ”

- S **NINEVEH WAS** the CAPITAL CITY OF THE **ASSYRIAN EMPIRE** situated on the **eastern bank** of the **TIGRIS RIVER**. For a period of time **SOME SCHOLARS** questioned whether the city of Nineveh ever actually existed, then in **1845** their doubts were squelched. **LAYARD & RASSAM** discovered the ruins of ancient Nineveh. The wall around the city was itself **eight miles in length**.

- S **HISTORY’S CHOICE OF ADJECTIVES HAS NOT BEEN KIND** IN DESCRIBING THE ASSYRIANS:

- **brutal / unmerciful**
- **vicious / ruthless**
- **savage / cruel**

THEIR CRUELTY INCLUDED:

- **burning cities / burning children**
- **chopping off hands / Impaling victims** on stakes
- **beheading / pulling arms of people** using horses and ropes
- **WHEN THE KING of a besieged city** refused to surrender to the Assyrians, they would set an example for the next city by **SKINNING THE CONQUERED KING** and hanging his body on the wall outside the city gate. It served as a warning to any other king who might consider resisting the Assyrians.

- S IT IS UNDERSTANDABLE why Jonah might have **HARBORED SUCH A DEEP-SEATED HOSTILITY** toward the Assyrians.

JONAH clearly **REFLECTED THAT HOSTILITY** by resisting God’s command to go to Nineveh.

- S **BRUTAL OR NOT**, God expected Jonah to go to Nineveh and preach God’s Word. **Amongst** that host of ruthless people were some **folks who would heed** God’s message if they simply had the opportunity to hear it. God had **not granted** Jonah the privilege of being **selective** in his obedience to God’s commands.

IN LIKE MANNER AS JONAH, **GOD HAS TOLD US WHERE TO GO:**

- **(Acts 1:8)**, “. . . YE SHALL BE WITNESSES unto me both **IN JERUSALEM**, and in **ALL JUDAEA**, and in **SAMARIA**, and unto the **UTTERMOST PART OF THE EARTH**.”
- **(Mat 28:18-19)**, “. . . All power is given unto me in heaven and in

earth. {19} Go ye therefore, and teach **ALL NATIONS**, . . . "

TWO WORDS WORTH NOTING IN MATTHEW 28:19:

- 1) That little word "**ALL**" is an interesting Greek word. Do you know what that word means in the original language? It means "**ALL.**" God didn't say, "Go to selective nations," He says, "Go to **ALL** nations."
- 2) THE GREEK WORD FOR "**NATIONS**" is worth noting. It is the word "**ETHNOS**" from which is derived the English word "**ETHNIC.**" **ETHNIC GROUPS** can speak of groups of people within a nation. The word "all" really is **ALL INCLUSIVE**. We are not only called to go into all nations, we are called to go to all kinds of people located within all nations.

-
- S THE OTHER DAY **THE WAR IN AFGHANISTAN** was the topic in a group discussion. **ONE SIDE OF THE CONVERSATION** emphasized **the hostilities** of some people in that land. **THE OTHER SIDE OF THE CONVERSATION** emphasized the fact that Jesus Christ died for all people groups so that all might be saved when they place their faith in Him. **INEVITABLE QUESTIONS** arise from such thought. Do you avoid certain people groups because of the dangers involved in sharing the Gospel with them? **OR** do you share the Gospel with them because Jesus told us to go to all nations?
- S NOT MANY DAYS FOLLOWING THAT CONVERSATION CAME **SOME HEART RENDING TESTIMONIES** that demonstrated obedience to God's command to go to all people.
- (1) **TWO MISSIONARIES** were had been under arrest in Afghanistan for doing what was termed "**PREACHING CHRISTIANITY.**" They had attended Baylor University in Waco, TX. When they were released, I had to fight back tears several times as they related the details of their ordeal. They told how God had kept every promise that He had made to them. **WHY** were they in Afghanistan? God said, ". . . All authority is given unto me in heaven and in earth. {19} Go ye therefore, and teach **ALL NATIONS**, . . . " and they took it seriously.
 - (2) **A NEWS DOCUMENTARY** on T.V. a few weeks ago highlighted the reality again. The news commentator was in **NORTHERN AFGHANISTAN** interviewing **A YOUNG AMERICAN** while the war was taking place. Because the American had lived a long time in that village, he spoke their language fluently. He had not fled the ongoing war. The newsman asked the American if he was afraid. With an evident sense of peace and calm on his face, he stated that he was not really afraid. He told of villagers who would lay down their lives for him. I kept wondering as the interview continued what it was that drove this young American to stay in that war torn land. I had my suspicions, but no hard facts had yet been presented. Finally, toward the end of the presentation, the American shared why he risked his life to live among those people. He said it was because of **THE LORD JESUS CHRIST**. I wanted to **shout**. **Tears** filled my eyes. Something deep inside said, "**Thank you Lord!**"

- #1. **WHAT TO DO** - "GO"
- #2. **WHERE TO GO** - "NINEVEH"

#3. WHAT TO SAY

(1:2), "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and **CRY AGAINST IT**; for their wickedness is come up before me."

(3:2), "Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and **PREACH UNTO IT THE PREACHING THAT I BID THEE.**"

HIS MESSAGE:

(3:4), "And Jonah . . . said, '**YET FORTY DAYS, AND NINEVEH SHALL BE OVERTHROWN.**'"

- S **IT IS DIFFICULT FOR SOME FOLKS TO GRASP, BUT GOD'S MESSAGE OF JUDGMENT IS A MESSAGE OF GOD'S LOVE & MERCY.** When God warns, God is offering opportunity to do something about His judgment. God's judgment is God's offer of **HOPE.**

AN EXAMPLE — **GOD PUT THE RATTLES ON A RATTLESNAKE** so that we would be warned of impending danger so that we might avoid being bit. The last time I visited **MY DAD'S FARM**, I was very thankful for rattlers on the rattlesnake. I got out to open the gate to the pasture. As I was struggling to slip the wire off the top of the post, I heard a rattle, rattle, rattle at my feet. In the weeds next to the post where I was standing were two rattlesnakes. They would probably have bit me had I not known they were there. Their warning offered me an opportunity for safety.

- S **GOD WARNS BECAUSE GOD LOVES THOSE HE IS WARNING.** When God tells us to **REPENT**, it is because **HE LOVES US.** WHERE WE FIND **GOD'S WARNING**, we find **OPPORTUNITY TO REPENT.** **IT IS A SAD DAY** when some one interprets God's judgment in the opposite manner.

- S **DR. GEORGE SWEETING STATES IT SO WELL:**
"Suppose God were to let us fall but would not lift us up.
Suppose we were able to wander far away but could not return.
Suppose we were able to sin but could not repent. If that were true, we would have no hope. We would forever be enslaved to sin. The message of repentance makes the Bible a book of hope and gladness" (from an article in *Moody Monthly* titled "REPENT, AND DO IT DAILY")

- S THE TIME TO FEAR IS when God **NO LONGER WARNS.**

I. MISSION RESPONSIBILITY REVEALED

II. MISSION RESPONSIBILITY REFUSED

(1:3), "But **JONAH ROSE UP** to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD, and **WENT DOWN TO JOPPA**; and he **FOUND A SHIP** going to

TARSHISH: so he **paid the fare** thereof, and went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the LORD."

- S **JONAH FLAT OUT REFUSED** to be a part of God's international missionary cause. He rejected God's call hands down.

- S **JONAH IS A TYPE OF ALL MODERN TACTICS** that seek to **EVADE GOD'S MISSIONARY CALL**. Jonah's refusal to go to Nineveh represents **EVERY HUMAN ATTEMPT** to reject God's great missionary enterprise.

- S **CONSIDER THREE MODERN MISSIONARY EVASION TACTICS:**

#1. MISSIONS CAN BE DANGEROUS

IT IS TRUE - SERVING AS A MISSIONARY CAN BE DANGEROUS.

- (1) **A FAMILY OF FIVE** from one of our sister churches was serving overseas. The family came down with a sickness and the wife died.

- (2) A few months ago some missionaries were flying to the jungles of **PERU** and their plane was shot down by a Peruvian Air Force jet. A missionary wife and her little baby were killed.

- (3) AT THE WRITING OF THIS MESSAGE **A HUSBAND & WIFE MISSIONARY COUPLE** are still in the hands of Moslem soldiers in the **PHILIPPINES**. Those soldiers have threatened to behead those missionaries if they are not paid the ransom they have demanded.

- S **WHAT CONCLUSIONS** ARE WE TO DRAW FROM SUCH POTENTIAL DANGER? SOME PEOPLE MIGHT CONCLUDE THAT SINCE MISSIONS CAN BE DANGEROUS, MISSIONS IS **NOT REQUIRED. THAT IS SO WRONG!** God's Word clearly disagrees. Potential danger is not an excuse to avoid missions.

- **(Luke 9:23)**, "And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up **HIS CROSS DAILY**, and follow me."

- **(Rom 12:1)**, "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies **A LIVING SACRIFICE**, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

- **(Mark 8:35)**, "For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it."

- S **SOMEONE MIGHT SAY, "I will never go over seas** as a missionary, because I might contract **malaria**; I might die. I am

going to stay in the United States where I will be **safe.**”

SO THEY STAY in the United States and get **hit by a car** and die. They enter a building and it blows up and they die.

In the paper a few days ago was the story of a couple driving through MOUNT **RAINIER NATIONAL PARK**. They were driving along enjoying themselves when something very tragic happened. The husband was killed and the wife was still in critical condition at the writing of the newspaper article. A seventy-five foot section out of the top of one of the huge trees broke off and fell on their car.

S **THE SAFEST PLACE TO BE** in all the world to be is in the middle of God’s will. I would rather be a missionary in God’s will overseas, than to be living in the United States under the care of ten doctors outside of God’s will.

S **SOME HELPFUL VERSES:**

- **(John 11:9-10)**, "Jesus answered, Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world. {10} But if a man walk in the night, he stumbleth, because there is no light in him."
- **(Ps 139:16 niv)**, “. . . All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.”
- **(Heb 1:14)**, "Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?"
- **(Psa 56:3)**, "What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee."

MODERN MISSIONARY EVASION TACTICS:

#1. MISSIONS CAN BE **DANGEROUS**

#2. MISSIONS CAN BE OFFENSIVE TO OTHER CULTURES

S **THIS, TOO, CAN SOMETIMES BE TRUE!**

S **PETER AND JOHN** were told by the Sanhedrin not to preach Jesus anymore. What they had to say about Jesus was offensive to their culture. Their response was so inspiring and revealing:

(Acts 4:19-20), “But Peter and John answered and said unto them, ‘Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. {20} For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.”

S IT ALL **BOILS DOWN** to the question of whom you prefer to offend — **GOD OR CULTURE? IF YOU HAVE DETERMINED TO BE FAITHFUL TO THE LORD, YOU CANNOT AVOID BEING OFFENSIVE TO THE WORLD AT TIMES. EVERY COMMITTED CHRISTIAN COMMITS OFFENSE AGAINST THE WORLD IF THEY STAND TRUE TO THE LORD. SCRIPTURE IS CLEAR** regarding this issue:

- **(John 15:18)**, “If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.”
- **(John 15:20)**, “Remember the word that I said unto you, ‘The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.’”
- **(2 Tim 3:12)**, “Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.”
- **(Luke 6:26)**, “**Woe unto you**, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets.”

S **ONLY ONE WAY EXISTS** for a Christian to avoid being offensive to the world — **STOP TELLING OTHERS ABOUT JESUS; STOP BEING SALT & LIGHT.**

(Mat 5:13), “Ye are the salt of the earth: but **IF THE SALT HAVE LOST HIS SAVOR**, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.”

S IF MISSIONS WERE **AN AMERICAN “THING,”** then we should stop sending missionaries so that we would not offend different cultures. If missions were a **SOUTHERN BAPTIST “THING,”** the opinions of the critics should prevail. **BUT IF** missions is **THE COMMAND OF GOD**, it matters not what others might say or think, we are obligated to go and tell.

S **DON'T MISUNDERSTAND**, none of that means we are to be rude and obnoxious. We are always to go in a spirit of **LOVE AND RESPECT** for others.

(1 Cor 13:2), “And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, **I AM NOTHING.**”

S When we go with God’s love and minister in a spirit of love, we must not let the fear of offending culture keep us from going. The one to whom all authority has been granted has commanded us to go.

MODERN MISSIONARY EVASION TACTICS:

- #1. MISSIONS CAN BE **DANGEROUS**
- #2. MISSIONS CAN BE **OFFENSIVE TO OTHER CULTURES**

#3. GOD HASN'T CALLED ME TO DO MISSIONS

S That sounds like **THE SPIRIT OF JONAH SPEAKING.**

S THE TRUTH IS **GOD HAS CALLED ALL HIS CHILDREN TO DO MISSIONS!** It is just that some have been called to serve in **Jerusalem** and **Judea**, while others are called to serve in **Samaria** and the **uttermost parts** of the earth. We may go about sharing Jesus with others in a thousand different ways, but we have all been called to "GO."

S **(Mat 28:19)**, "GO YE THEREFORE, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:"

I. MISSION RESPONSIBILITY **REVEALED**

II. MISSION RESPONSIBILITY **REFUSED**

III. MISSION RESPONSIBILITY REQUIRED

S Mark it down clear and plain, **MISSIONS IS NOT AN OPTION WITH GOD.** When individuals, or groups, or churches, decide that doing missions is no longer the politically correct thing to do, then **GOD DOES ONE OF TWO THINGS** to correct such wrong thinking.

#1. HE INCREASES THE PRESSURE ON THEM UNTIL THEY CHANGE THEIR MIND

(TWO EXAMPLES)

(1) **JONAH**

(1:17), "Now the LORD had prepared **A GREAT FISH TO SWALLOW** up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights."

S **JONAH NEEDED A LITTLE EXTRA PERSUASION** in order to join God in His great missionary outreach to the world.

(2) **THE EARLY CHURCH**

S The Christians in Jerusalem had become satisfied with the events of their daily lives. They were content to remain in Jerusalem while the rest of the world went without the witness of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. God knew they would never be missionaries without His help. The good news is that God loved them enough to help them obey His command to go into all the world. God's method of help was to allow pressure to increase on His children so that they would go to others and tell the Good News.

- **(Acts 8:1)**, "... And at that time there was **A GREAT PERSECUTION** against the church which was at Jerusalem; and **THEY WERE ALL SCATTERED** abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles."

- **(Acts 8:4)**, "Therefore they that were scattered abroad **WENT**

EVERY WHERE PREACHING THE WORD."

CHANCES WERE GOOD they would never have gone had God not helped them.

- S **BEFORE WE GET TOO HARD** on those early Christians, they are a good example of what God will do for all of us. It is easy to get into **COMFORT ZONES** in the Christian life and refuse to go out and be witnesses. God knows that better than we do.

#1. HE **INCREASES THE PRESSURE** UNTIL WE CHANGE OUR MIND

- S **ON OCCASION**, PEOPLE PROVE TO BE **MORE RESISTANT** to God's will than even Jonah himself. Even after they are spit up out of the belly of their "fish," they refuse to go to Nineveh. God has a second step that He sometimes takes.

#2. HE USES SOMEONE ELSE THAT WILL OBEY

TWO EXAMPLES:

(1) THE MAN WHO BURIED HIS TALENT

- S God gave three men different numbers of talents. To one he gave five talents. To another he gave two talents. To the third man he gave one talent. The third man refused to invest his talent. He went and buried it. He was like Jonah. He said to his master there was no way we was going to work for the master. Remember what the master did:
- S **(Mat 25:28-29)**, "Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. {29} For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath."

(2) JESUS CURSED THE FIG TREE

- S The last week of His life, Jesus walked with His disciples toward the city of Jerusalem. They saw **A FIG TREE** that had leaves, but no figs. Jesus spoke these words to that fruitless tree:
- (Mat 21:19)**, "... 'Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever . . . '"
- The verse goes on to say, "Immediately the tree withered." The next day the disciples noticed the tree had withered.
- S **QUESTION** – Why did Jesus curse the fig tree? **MY OPINION IS** it illustrated the nation, the church, the individual that refuses to produce fruit unto God. **A TIME CAN COME** in which God says it is no longer productive to try to get them to obey, I will move on to others who will respond.
- S **MISSIONS IS NOT AN OPTION WITH GOD.** When folks decide that doing missions is no longer the politically

correct thing to do, God will go on without them.

- S **GOD DOES NOT CARRY OUT SUCH DRASTIC ACTION EASILY OR QUICKLY.** Jesus even told a story to emphasize that fact.

(Luke 13:6-9), "He spake also this parable; A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none. {7} Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground? {8} And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it: {9} And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down."

- I. MISSION RESPONSIBILITY **REVEALED**
- II. MISSION RESPONSIBILITY **REFUSED**
- III. MISSION RESPONSIBILITY **REQUIRED**

IV. MISSION RESPONSIBILITY REWARDED

THE SWEETEST PART OF ALL:

(3:5-6), "So the people of Nineveh **BELIEVED GOD**, and **PROCLAIMED A FAST**, and **PUT ON SACKCLOTH**, from the greatest of them even to the least of them. {6} For word came unto **THE KING** of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and he laid his robe from him, and covered him with sackcloth, and sat in ashes."

THE KING SAID TO HIS PEOPLE:

(V. 9), "Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not?"

GOD'S RESPONSE:

(V. 10), "And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not."

- S **THE FRUIT OF MISSIONS IS WORTH EVERY OUNCE OF EFFORT.**

(Luke 13:29), "And they shall come from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God."

- S **WHAT IF JONAH HAD NOT GONE?** Many in Nineveh would have gone untouched.

- S **WHAT IF WE DO NOT GO? HOW MANY WILL GO UNTOUCHED? THINK** of how much good **ONE FAITHFUL PERSON CAN DO.** THINK of how much **ONE FAITHLESS PERSON LEAVES UNDONE.** WE ARE ALL HERE BECAUSE **SOME FAITHFUL MISSIONARY CAME TO US.** GOD HELP US TO

GO TO OTHERS!